

Part 2

Social Worker Licensing Act

58-60-201 Title.

This part is known as the "Social Worker Licensing Act."

Enacted by Chapter 32, 1994 General Session

58-60-202 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in Sections 58-1-102 and 58-60-102, as used in this part:

- (1)
- (a) "Practice as a social service worker" means performance of general entry level services under general supervision of a mental health therapist through the application of social work theory, methods, and ethics in order to enhance the social or psychosocial functioning of an individual, a couple, a family, a group, or a community, including:
 - (i) conducting:
 - (A) a non-clinical psychosocial assessment; or
 - (B) a home study;
 - (ii) collaborative planning and goal setting, including drafting initial treatment plans, if:
 - (A) the treatment plan is for a client with mild to moderate behavioral health symptoms or disorders, as assessed or diagnosed by a mental health therapist;
 - (B) before treatment begins, the mental health therapist has reviewed and approved the treatment plan, and the client has been given an opportunity to consult with the mental health therapist; and
 - (C) the social service worker is authorized in writing by a licensed health facility, as defined in Section 26B-2-201, or a licensed human service program, as defined in Section 26B-2-101;
 - (iii) ongoing case management;
 - (iv) progress monitoring, including drafting treatment plan reviews and updates, if the requirements of Subsections (1)(a)(ii)(A) through (C) have been met;
 - (v) supportive counseling and psychosocial education, including:
 - (A) providing individual and group support and psychosocial education related to behavioral health literacy, wellness education and promotion, goal setting, life skills, and coping skills;
 - (B) providing evidence-based, manualized therapeutic interventions according to a treatment plan approved by a mental health therapist, while under the supervision of a mental health therapist, in the treatment of mild to moderate behavioral health symptoms or disorders, as assessed or diagnosed by the mental health therapist; and
 - (C) co-facilitating group therapy with a mental health therapist;
 - (vi) information gathering;
 - (vii) making referrals, including crisis referrals;
 - (viii) engaging in advocacy;
 - (ix) care navigation; and
 - (x) the supervision and training of social work students of an accredited institution who are seeking bachelor's degrees in social work, if the social service worker has two years of post-licensure work experience.
 - (b) Except for the acts described in Subsection (1)(a)(v)(B), "practice as a social service worker" does not include:

- (i) diagnosing or treating mental illness; or
 - (ii) providing psychotherapeutic services to an individual, couple, family, group, or community.
- (2) "Practice of clinical social work" includes:
- (a) the practice of mental health therapy by observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, intervention, and treatment to effect modification of behavior by the application of generally recognized professional social work principles, methods, and procedures for the purpose of preventing, treating, or eliminating mental or emotional illness or dysfunction, the symptoms of any of these, or maladaptive behavior;
 - (b) the application of generally recognized psychotherapeutic and social work principles and practices requiring the education, training, and clinical experience of a clinical social worker; and
 - (c) supervision of the practice of a certified social worker or social service worker as the supervision is required under this chapter and as further defined by division rule.
- (3) "Practice of certified social work" includes:
- (a) the supervised practice of mental health therapy by a clinical social worker by observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, intervention, and treatment to effect modification of behavior by the application of generally recognized professional social work principles, methods, and procedures for the purpose of preventing, treating, or eliminating mental or emotional illness or dysfunctions, the symptoms of any of these, or maladaptive behavior;
 - (b) the supervised or independent and unsupervised application of generally recognized professional social work principles and practices requiring the education, training, and experience of a certified social worker; and
 - (c) supervision of the practice of a social service worker as the supervision is required under this chapter and as further defined by division rule.
- (4) "Program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education" means a program that:
- (a) was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education on the day on which the applicant for licensure satisfactorily completed the program; or
 - (b) was in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education on the day on which the applicant for licensure satisfactorily completed the program.
- (5) "Supervision of a social service worker" means supervision conducted by an individual licensed as a mental health therapist under this title in accordance with division rules made in collaboration with the board.

Amended by Chapter 420, 2024 General Session

58-60-204 License classifications.

The division shall issue licenses and certifications to individuals qualified under this part in the classifications:

- (1) clinical social worker;
- (2) certified social worker; and
- (3) social service worker.

Amended by Chapter 283, 2023 General Session

58-60-205 Qualifications for licensure or certification as a clinical social worker, certified social worker, and social service worker.

- (1) An applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall:
 - (a) submit an application on a form the division approves;

- (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
 - (c) produce certified transcripts from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the division in collaboration with the board verifying satisfactory completion of an education and an earned degree as follows:
 - (i) a master's degree in a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work; or
 - (ii) a doctoral degree that contains a clinical social work concentration and practicum approved by the division, by rule, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that is consistent with Section 58-1-203;
 - (d) if required under federal law for any licensee as a clinical social worker to qualify as an eligible professional under CMS rules for Medicare payment, document completion of:
 - (i) not less than 3,000 hours of clinical supervision, which includes hours accrued under Subsection (1)(e); or
 - (ii) not less than two years of clinical supervision;
 - (e) document successful completion of not less than 1,200 direct client care hours:
 - (i) obtained after completion of the education requirements under Subsection (1)(c);
 - (ii) subject to Subsection (1)(e)(iii), not less than 100 of which are direct clinical supervision hours under the supervision of a clinical supervisor;
 - (iii) not less than 25 of which are direct observation hours; and
 - (iv) not more than 25 of which are group supervision hours accrued concurrently with more than one other applicant for licensure;
 - (f) document successful completion of not less than two hours of training in suicide prevention, obtained after completion of the education requirements under Subsection (1)(c) via a course that the division designates as approved;
 - (g) have completed a case work, group work, or family treatment course sequence with a clinical practicum in content as defined by rule under Section 58-1-203;
 - (h)
 - (i) pass the examination requirement established by rule under Section 58-1-203; or
 - (ii) satisfy the following requirements:
 - (A) document at least one examination attempt that did not result in a passing score;
 - (B) document successful completion of not less than 500 additional direct client care hours, at least 25 of which are direct clinical supervision hours, and at least five of which are direct observation hours;
 - (C) submit to the division a recommendation letter from the applicant's direct clinical supervisor; and
 - (D) submit to the division a recommendation letter from another licensed mental health therapist who has directly observed the applicant's direct client care hours and who is not the applicant's direct clinical supervisor; and
 - (i)
 - (i) consent to, and complete, a criminal background check, described in Section 58-1-301.5;
 - (ii) meet any other standard related to the criminal background check described in Subsection (1)(i)(i), that the division establishes by rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
 - (iii) disclose any criminal history the division requests on a form the division approves.
- (2) An applicant for licensure as a certified social worker shall:
- (a) submit an application on a form the division approves;
 - (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;

- (c) produce certified transcripts from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the division in collaboration with the board verifying satisfactory completion of an education and an earned degree as follows:
 - (i) a master's degree in a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work; or
 - (ii) a doctoral degree that contains a clinical social work concentration and practicum approved by the division, by rule, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that is consistent with Section 58-1-203; and
- (d)
 - (i) consent to, and complete, a criminal background check, described in Section 58-1-301.5;
 - (ii) meet any other standard related to the criminal background check described in Subsection (2)(d)(i), that the division establishes by rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
 - (iii) disclose any criminal history the division requests on a form the division approves.
- (3) An applicant for licensure as a social service worker shall:
 - (a) submit an application on a form the division approves;
 - (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504; and
 - (c) produce certified transcripts from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the division in collaboration with the board verifying satisfactory completion of an education and an earned degree as follows:
 - (i) a bachelor's degree in a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work;
 - (ii) a master's degree in a field approved by the division in collaboration with the board;
 - (iii) a bachelor's degree in any field if the applicant:
 - (A) has completed at least three semester hours, or the equivalent, in each of the following areas:
 - (I) social welfare policy;
 - (II) human growth and development; and
 - (III) social work practice methods, as defined by rule; and
 - (B) provides documentation that the applicant has completed at least 2,000 hours of qualifying experience under the supervision of a mental health therapist, which experience is approved by the division in collaboration with the board, and which is performed after completion of the requirements to obtain the bachelor's degree required under this Subsection (3); or
 - (iv) successful completion of the first academic year of a Council on Social Work Education approved master's of social work curriculum and practicum.
- (4) The division shall ensure that the rules for an examination described under Subsection (1)(h)(i) allow additional time to complete the examination if requested by an applicant who is:
 - (a) a foreign born legal resident of the United States for whom English is a second language; or
 - (b) an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe.

Amended by Chapter 443, 2025 General Session

58-60-205.5 Continuing education.

As a condition for renewal of a license under this part, a social service worker licensee shall, during each two-year licensure cycle, complete qualified continuing professional education, as defined by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Enacted by Chapter 214, 2010 General Session

58-60-206 Qualifications for admission to examination.

All applicants for admission to an examination qualifying an individual for licensure under this part shall, before taking the examination:

- (1) submit an application for examination on a form provided by the division;
- (2) pay the fee established for the examination; and
- (3) certify under penalty of perjury as evidenced by notarized signature on the application for examination that the applicant:
 - (a) has completed the education requirement and been awarded the earned degree required for licensure; or
 - (b) has only one semester, or the equivalent, remaining before the applicant completes the education requirement for earning the degree that is required for licensure.

Amended by Chapter 262, 2013 General Session

58-60-207 Scope of practice -- Limitations.

- (1) A clinical social worker may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of clinical social work without supervision, in private and independent practice, or as an employee of another person, limited only by the licensee's education, training, and competence.
- (2) To the extent an individual is professionally prepared by the education and training track completed while earning a master's or doctor of social work degree, a licensed certified social worker may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of certified social work consistent with the licensee's education, clinical training, experience, and competence:
 - (a) under supervision of an individual described in Subsection 58-60-205(2)(d)(ii) and as an employee of another person when engaged in the practice of mental health therapy;
 - (b) without supervision and in private and independent practice or as an employee of another person, if not engaged in the practice of mental health therapy;
 - (c) including engaging in the private, independent, unsupervised practice of social work as a self-employed individual, in partnership with other mental health therapists, as a professional corporation, or in any other capacity or business entity, so long as he does not practice unsupervised psychotherapy; and
 - (d) supervising social service workers as provided by division rule.

Amended by Chapter 420, 2024 General Session